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CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in title 20 section 6104.

§ 551. Establishment of Department; Secretary; seal

There shall be an executive department in the Government to be called the Department of Labor, with a Secretary of Labor, who shall be the head thereof, to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and whose tenure of office shall be like that of the heads of the other executive departments. The provisions of title 4 of the Revised Statutes, including all amendments thereto, shall be applicable to said department. The purpose of the Department of Labor shall be to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners of the United States, to improve their working conditions, and to advance their opportunities for profitable employment. The said Secretary shall cause a seal of office to be made for the said department of such device as the President shall approve and judicial notice shall be taken of the said seal.

(Mar. 4, 1913, ch. 141, §1, 37 Stat. 736; Mar. 4, 1925, ch. 549, §4, 43 Stat. 1301.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Title 4 of the Revised Statutes, referred to in text, was entitled "Provisions Applicable to All Executive Departments", and consisted of R.S. §§158 to 198. For provisions of the Code derived from such title 4, see sections 101, 301, 303, 304, 503, 2952, 3101, 3106, 3341, 3345 to 3349, 5535, 5536 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees; section 207 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure; sections 514, 520 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure; section 3321 of Title 31, Money and Finance.

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 611 of Title 5 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, by Pub. L. 89-554, §1, Sept. 1, 1966, 80 Stat. 378.

SHORT TITLE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 99-619, §1, Nov. 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 3491, provided that: "This Act [amending sections 552 and 553 of this title and sections 5313 to 5316 of Title 5, Government

Organization and Employees, repealing section 3 of Reorganization Plan No. 6 of 1950, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 552 and 553 of this title and section 5316 of Title 5] may be cited as the 'Department of Labor Executive Level Conforming Amendments of 1986'."

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of Labor, with certain exceptions, to Secretary of Labor, with power to delegate, see Reorg. Plan No. 6, of 1950, §§1, 2, 15 F.R. 3174, 64 Stat. 1263, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUNCTIONS

For assignment of certain emergency preparedness functions to Secretary of Labor, see Parts 1, 2, and 12 of Ex. Ord. No. 12656, Nov. 18, 1988, 53 F.R. 47491, set out as a note under section 5195 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

HISTORY OF DEPARTMENT

A Department of Labor under the charge of a Commissioner of Labor was first established by act June 13, 1888, ch. 389, 25 Stat. 182. That Department was placed under the jurisdiction and made a part of a new department, called the Department of Commerce and Labor, by act Feb. 14, 1903, ch. 552, §4, 32 Stat. 827. The name Department of Labor was changed to Bureau of Labor by act Mar. 18, 1904, ch. 716, 33 Stat. 136. The present Department of Labor was created by act Mar. 4, 1913. The Bureau of Labor in the Department of Commerce and Labor was transferred to the present Department of Labor by said act.

ORDER OF SUCCESSION

For order of succession during any period when both Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Labor are unable to perform functions and duties of office of Secretary, see Ex. Ord. No. 13245, Dec. 18, 2001, 66 F.R. 66268, set out as a note under section 3345 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

COMPENSATION OF SECRETARY

Compensation of Secretary, see section 5312 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

§ 552. Deputy Secretary; appointment; duties

There is established in the Department of Labor the office of Deputy Secretary of Labor, which shall be filled by appointment by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Deputy Secretary shall perform such duties as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Labor or required by law. The Deputy Secretary shall (1) in case of the death, resignation, or removal from office of the Secretary, perform the duties of the Secretary until a successor is appointed, and (2) in case of the absence or sickness of the Secretary, perform the duties of the Secretary until such absence or sickness shall terminate.

(Apr. 17, 1946, ch. 140, §1, 60 Stat. 91; Pub. L. 99-619, §2(a)(1), Nov. 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 3491.)

CODIFICATION

Provisions of this section which prescribed the basic annual compensation of the Under [Deputy] Secretary were omitted to conform to the provisions of the Executive Schedule. See section 5314 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Section was formerly classified to section 611a of Title 5 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, by Pub. L. 89-554, §1, Sept. 1, 1966, 80 Stat. 378.

AMENDMENTS

1986—Pub. L. 99-619 substituted “Deputy Secretary” for “Under Secretary” in three places.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of Labor, with certain exceptions, to Secretary of Labor, with power to delegate, see Reorg. Plan No. 6, of 1950, §§1, 2, 15 F.R. 3174, 64 Stat. 1263, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

REFERENCES IN OTHER LAWS

Section 2(a)(4) of Pub. L. 99-619 provided that: “Any reference to the Under Secretary of Labor in any law, rule, regulation, certificate, directive, or other document in force on the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 6, 1986] shall be deemed to refer and apply to the Deputy Secretary of Labor.”

PRESENT INCUMBENT

Section 2(f)(1) of Pub. L. 99-619 provided that: “The incumbent in the position of Under Secretary of Labor on the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 6, 1986] may serve as Deputy Secretary of Labor at the pleasure of the President after such date and the amendments made by subsection (a)(2) [amending section 5313 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees] shall apply to such incumbent.”

ORDER OF SUCCESSION

For order of succession during any period when both Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Labor are unable to perform functions and duties of office of Secretary, see Ex. Ord. No. 13245, Dec. 18, 2001, 66 F.R. 66268, set out as a note under section 3345 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

§ 553. Assistant Secretaries; appointment; duties

There are established in the Department of Labor nine offices of Assistant Secretary of Labor, which shall be filled by appointment by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Each of the Assistant Secretaries of Labor shall perform such duties as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Labor or required by law. One of such Assistant Secretaries shall be an Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.

(Apr. 17, 1946, ch. 140, §2, 60 Stat. 91; Pub. L. 87-137, §1, Aug. 11, 1961, 75 Stat. 338; Pub. L. 91-596, §29(a), Dec. 29, 1970, 84 Stat. 1618; Pub. L. 99-619, §2(b)(1), Nov. 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 3491.)

CODIFICATION

Provisions of this section which prescribed the basic annual compensation of the Assistant Secretaries were omitted to conform to the provisions of the Executive Schedule. See section 5315 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Section was formerly classified to section 611b of Title 5 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, by Pub. L. 89-554, §1, Sept. 1, 1966, 80 Stat. 378.

AMENDMENTS

1986—Pub. L. 99-619 substituted “nine offices” for “five offices”.

1970—Pub. L. 91-596 increased the number of Assistant Secretaries of Labor from four to five and inserted provision that one of such Assistant Secretaries be an Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.

1961—Pub. L. 87-137 increased the number of Assistant Secretaries of Labor from three to four.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 91-596 effective 120 days after Dec. 29, 1970 see section 34 of Pub. L. 91-596, set out as an Effective Date note under section 651 of this title.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of Labor, with certain exceptions, to Secretary of Labor, with power to delegate, see Reorg. Plan No. 6, of 1950, §§1, 2, 15 F.R. 3174, 64 Stat. 1263, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

REFERENCES IN OTHER LAWS

Section 2(b)(3) of Pub. L. 99-619 provided that: “Any reference in any law, regulation, certificate, directive, or other document to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Employment in force on the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 6, 1986] shall be deemed to be a reference to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Employment and Training.”

PRESENT INCUMBENT

Section 2(f)(2) of Pub. L. 99-619 provided that: “The incumbent in the position of Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Employment on the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 6, 1986] may serve as Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Employment and Training at the pleasure of the President after such date and the amendments made by subsection (b)(2) [amending section 5315 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees] shall apply to such incumbent.”

§ 554. Assistants to Secretary

There shall be in the Department of Labor not more than two assistants to the Secretary, who shall be appointed by the President and shall perform such duties as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Labor or required by law.

(Mar. 4, 1927, ch. 498, 44 Stat. 1415.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 613a of Title 5 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, by Pub. L. 89-554, §1, Sept. 1, 1966, 80 Stat. 378.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of Labor, with certain exceptions, to Secretary of Labor, with power to delegate, see Reorg. Plan No. 6, of 1950, §§1, 2, 15 F.R. 3174, 64 Stat. 1263, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

§ 555. Solicitor

There shall be a solicitor for the Department of Labor.

(Mar. 18, 1904, ch. 716, §1, 33 Stat. 135; Mar. 4, 1913, ch. 141, §7, 37 Stat. 738; Ex. Ord. No. 6166, §7, June 10, 1933.)

CODIFICATION

The words “of the Department of Justice” were omitted from text on authority of section 7 of Ex. Ord. No. 6166, which transferred the Solicitor for the Department of Labor from the Department of Justice to the Department of Labor.

Section was formerly classified to section 613b of Title 5 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, by Pub. L. 89-554, §1, Sept. 1, 1966, 80 Stat. 378.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of Labor, with certain ex-